1. A system for detecting an observing program on a computer system, the system comprising:

    accessing instructions that access observer data, the observer data including data descriptive of an observer program, the observer program being programmed to observe a user's activities on the computer system and also operating to create data from the observing of the observer program;

    reading instructions that read memory of the computer system to obtain memory data;

    comparing instructions that compare the observer data with memory data read in from memory to determine whether the observer program is present on the computer system;

    generating instructions that generate results from the comparing, wherein the results generated indicate whether the observer program is present on the computer system; and

    outputting instructions that obtain the results and provide the results for a user.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the reading instructions read the memory of the computer system by querying the operating system of the computer system for the tasks running and by examining task information provided by the operating system.

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3. The system of claim 1 wherein the outputting instructions provide the results to a user through a graphical user interface.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein the reading instructions read the memory of the computer system by querying the file system of the computer system for the files located on storage media and by examining file information provided by the file system.

5. The system of claim 1 wherein the reading instructions read the memory of the computer system by opening a file located on storage media and by examining contents of the file.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein the observer data includes data descriptive of a plurality of observer programs and wherein the system compares the observer data with the memory data to determine whether any known observer program is present.

7. The system of claim 1 further comprising countermeasure instructions wherein the countermeasure instructions alter the operation of the observer program.

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8. The system of claim 7 wherein the countermeasure instructions alter the operation of the observer program by altering observer program configuration data.

9. The system of claim 7 wherein the countermeasure instructions alter the operation of the observer program by altering a file on the computer system.

10. The system of claim 7 wherein the countermeasure instructions alter the operation of the observer program by altering reporting data generated by the observer program.

11. The system of claim 7 wherein the countermeasure instructions alter the operation of the observer program by replacing reporting data generated by the observer program.

12. The system of claim 7 wherein the countermeasure instructions alter the operation of the observer program by replacing a file of the observer program.

13. The system of claim 1 wherein the observer data includes data descriptive of observing activity typical of observing programs and wherein the system compares the observer data with the memory data to determine whether any known observer program is present.

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14. The system of claim 1 further comprising the observer data, wherein the observer data includes a list of files and modules that are part of the observer program software, and wherein the reading instructions read the memory of the computer system by querying the operating system of the computer system for the tasks running and by examining task information provided by the operating system, and wherein the reading instructions also read the memory of the computer system by querying the file system of the computer system for the files located on storage media and by examining file information provided by the file system, and wherein the outputting instructions provide the results to a user through a graphical user interface.

15. The system of claim 1 wherein the system is made available over a computer network through a web site.

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16. A system for detecting an observing program on a computer system, the system comprising:

means for accessing observer data, the observer data including data descriptive of an observer program, the observer program being programmed to observe a user's activities on the computer system and also operating to create data from the observing of the observer program;

means for reading memory of the computer system to obtain memory data;

means for comparing the observer data with memory data to determine whether the observer program is present on the computer system;

means for generating results from the comparison, wherein the results generated indicate whether the observer program is present on the computer system; and

means for outputting the results for a user.

1 17. A method for detecting an observing program on a computer system, the

2 method comprising the steps of:

3   accessing observer data, the observer data including data descriptive of an

4   observer program, the observer program being programmed to observe

5   a user's activities on the computer system and also operating to create

6   data from the observing of the observer program;

7   reading memory of the computer system to obtain memory data;

8   comparing the observer data with memory data read in from memory to

9   determine whether the observer program is present on the computer

10   system;

11   generating results from the reading and comparing, wherein the results

12   generated indicate whether the observer program is present on the

13   computer system; and

14   outputting the results for a user.

1   18. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for detecting an observing

2   program on a computer system, wherein the instructions comprise executable

3   instructions for implementing a method comprised of the steps of:

4   accessing observer data, the observer data including data descriptive of an

5   observer program, the observer program being programmed to observe

6   a user's activities on the computer system and also operating to create

7   data from the observing of the observer program;

8   reading memory of the computer system to obtain memory data;

9   comparing the observer data with memory data read in from memory to

10   determine whether the observer program is present on the computer

11   system;

12   generating results from the reading and comparing, wherein the results

13   generated indicate whether the observer program is present on the

14   computer system; and

15   outputting the results for a user.

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17   19. The computer-readable medium of claim 18 wherein the computer-readable

18   medium is a data transmission medium.

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20.   A system for altering the operation of an observer program on a computer system, the system comprising:

accessing instructions that access observer information, the observer information including data descriptive of the observer program, the observer program being programmed to observe a user's activities on the computer system and also operating to create data from the observing of the observer program;

reading instructions that read memory of the computer system to obtain files relating to the observer program;

altering instructions that alter a file relating to the observer program such that the operation of the observer program is changed.

21.   The system of claim 20 further comprising an observer detection program.

22.   The system of claim 20 further comprising inputting instructions that display to a user options regarding the altering and that take input from the user relating to the options.

23.   The system of claim 20 wherein the altering instructions alter the operation of the observer program by altering observer program configuration data.

24.   The system of claim 20 wherein the altering instructions alter the operation of the observer program by altering a file on the computer system.

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25. The system of claim 20 wherein the altering instructions alter the operation of the observer program by altering reporting data generated by the observer program.

26. The system of claim 20 wherein the altering instructions alter the operation of the observer program by replacing reporting data generated by the observer program.

27. The system of claim 20 wherein the altering instructions alter the operation of the observer program by replacing a file of the observer program.

28. The system of claim 20 wherein the system is made available over a computer network through a web site.

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29.   A system for altering the operation of an observer program on a computer system, the system comprising:

    means for accessing observer information, the observer information including data descriptive of the observer program, the observer program being programmed to observe a user's activities on the computer system and also operating to create data from the observing of the observer program;

    means for reading memory of the computer system to obtain files relating to the observer program; and

    means for altering a file relating to the observer program such that the operation of the observer program is changed.

30. A method for altering the operation of an observer program on a computer system, the method comprising the steps of:

accessing observer information, the observer information including data descriptive of the observer program, the observer program being programmed to observe a user's activities on the computer system and also operating to create data from the observing of the observer program;

reading memory of the computer system to obtain files relating to the observer program; and

altering a file relating to the observer program such that the operation of the observer program is changed.

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31. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for altering the operation of an observer program on a computer system, wherein the instructions comprise executable instructions for implementing a method comprised of the steps of:

accessing observer information, the observer information including data descriptive of the observer program, the observer program being programmed to observe a user's activities on the computer system and also operating to create data from the observing of the observer program;

reading memory of the computer system to obtain files relating to the observer program; and

altering a file relating to the observer program such that the operation of the observer program is changed.

32. The computer-readable medium of claim 31 wherein the computer-readable medium is a data transmission medium.

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